

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 18-47 are pending in the application, with 18, 22, 26 and 29 being the independent claims. Claims 1-17 were canceled by preliminary amendment, filed concurrently with the captioned application, on August 22, 2001.

Applicants submit that the Amendment and Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on September 10, 2003 was a *bona fide* attempt to fully respond to the outstanding Office Action dated March 12, 2003. In compliance with the Official Gazette Notice dated September 23, 2003, Applicants are resubmitting the corrected "Amendments to the Claims" section only and are **not** resubmitting the entire Amendment and Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, filed September 10, 2003. *See* 1274 O.G. 165.

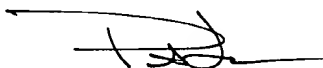
Conclusion

Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Notice and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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